

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A tubular food casing from which constituents can be transferred to food situated therein, said casing comprising

an outer tubular barrier casing comprising a seamless single-layer or multilayer polymer casing having a low permeability to water vapor, oxygen and aroma substances so as to effectively prevent food in said casing from drying out during storage; and

an inner tubular casing contiguous to the outer tubular barrier casing, wherein said inner tubular casing is bonded to the outer tubular casing only in their respective start region, wherein the inner tubular casing provides intermediate support and transfer for at least one food additive selected from the group consisting of a transferable colorant, aroma substance, flavor substance, spice extract, liquid smoke, dry smoke, natural aroma, synthetic aroma, and a flavor enhancer.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer layer and the inner layer have approximately the same stuffing caliber.

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer casing has an oxygen permeability of 1 to 100 $\text{cm}^3/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{bar} \cdot \text{d})$, determined as specified in DIN 53380, and a water vapor permeability of 1 to 50 $\text{g}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{d})$, determined as specified in DIN 53122.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 4, wherein the outer barrier casing is a casing based on at least one of polyamide, polyolefin, polyester, poly(vinylidene chloride) (PVDC), poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC), and/or polystyrene.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer barrier casing is multilayered and comprises at least one layer based on polyamide and at least one layer ~~on~~ layer based on polyolefin.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inner casing is produced from (i) regenerated cellulose, (ii) a mixture of thermoplastic starch and/or a

thermoplastic starch derivative and at least one polymer (iii) paper, (iv) textile fabric and/or (v) nonwoven fabric.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the food additive is (i) a spice or a spice mixture, (ii) a spice extract, (iii) a liquid smoke or dry smoke, (iv) a natural or synthetic aroma and/or a (v) flavor enhancer.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one food additive is combined with a binder.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 9, wherein the binder is a polysaccharide, a modified starch, dextran, pullulan, tragacanth gum, xanthan gum, gum arabic, alginate, methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, chitin, chitosan, a protein, pectin, carrageenan, guar and/or a gelatin.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The food casing as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a component ~~which decreases water solubility~~ that is added to the at least one food additive and/or the binder, said component decreasing the water solubility of the food additive and/or binder.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A shirred tubular food casing which comprises a first segment and a second segment arranged immediately one after the other, the first segment comprising a shirred tubular barrier casing and the second segment comprising a tubular casing which provides intermediate support and transfer for at least one food additive selected from the group consisting of a transferable colorant, aroma substance, flavor substance, spice extract, liquid smoke, dry smoke, natural aroma, synthetic aroma, and flavor enhancer.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 12, wherein a portion of said second segments comprises a deshirred or non-shirred portion which is passed through a cavity of the first segment and firmly bonded thereto.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 12, wherein the two segments are bound to one another by a plastic clip or a metal clip.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method for producing cooked-meat or scalded-emulsion sausage, comprising employing a food casing according to claim 1.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Previous Presented) A casing according to claim 4, wherein said oxygen permeability is from $1\text{-}10\text{ cm}^3/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{bar} \cdot \text{d})$, and said water vapor permeability is from $1\text{-}10\text{ g/m}^2 \cdot \text{d}$.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 2, wherein the outer barrier casing is multilayered and comprises at least one layer based on polyamide and at least one layer based on polyolefin.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The food casing as claimed in claim 2, wherein the inner casing is produced from (i) regenerated cellulose, (ii) a mixture of thermoplastic starch and/or a thermoplastic starch derivative and at least one polymer, (iii) paper, (iv) textile fabric and/or (v) nonwoven fabric.

Claim 20. (Cancelled)